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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

8
9 James Lawson,) No. CV-08-01320-PHX-LOA
10 Plaintiff,)
11 vs.)
12)
13 Continental Casualty Company; U.S.)
Foodservice Disability Plan,)
14 Defendants.)
15 _____)

16 Pursuant to Local Rule (“LRCiv”) 3.8(a), Rules of Practice, effective
17 December 1, 2007, civil cases are, and will be, randomly assigned to a United States district
18 judge or to a United States magistrate judge. This matter has been assigned to the
19 undersigned United States Magistrate Judge.

20 As a result of the aforesaid Local Rule and assignment, if all parties consent
21 in writing, the case will remain with the assigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to Title 28
22 U.S.C. 636(c)(1) for all purposes, including trial and final entry of judgment. If any party
23 chooses the district judge option, the case will be randomly reassigned to a U.S. district
24 judge. To either consent to the assigned Magistrate Judge or to elect to have the case heard
25 before a district judge, the appropriate section of the form, entitled Consent To Exercise Of
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1 Jurisdiction By United States Magistrate Judge,¹ must be completed, signed and filed. The
2 party filing the case or removing it to this District Court is responsible for serving all parties
3 with the consent forms. Each party must file a completed consent form and certificate of
4 service with the Clerk of the Court no later than 20 days after entry of appearance or as
5 otherwise directed by the Court, and shall serve a copy upon all other parties of record in the
6 case.

7 Any party is free to withhold consent to magistrate-judge jurisdiction without
8 adverse substantive consequences. Title 28 U.S.C. 636(c)(2); Rule 73(b), Fed.R.Civ.P.;
9 *Anderson v. Woodcreek Venture Ltd.*, 351 F.3d 911, 914 (9th Cir. 2003) (pointing out that
10 consent is the “touchstone of magistrate judge jurisdiction” under Title 28 U.S.C. §636(c)).
11 “A party to a federal civil case has, subject to some exceptions, a constitutional right to
12 proceed before an Article III judge.” *Dixon v. Ylst*, 990 F.2d 478, 479 (9th Cir. 1993) (citing
13 *Pacemaker Diagnostic Clinic of Am., Inc. v. Instromedix, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 537, 541 (9th Cir.
14 1984) (*en banc*)).

15 A review of the District Court’s docket reflects that the Complaint was filed
16 on July 17, 2008. Plaintiff shall have until and including **Thursday, August 7, 2008** within
17 which to make his selection to either voluntarily consent to magistrate-judge jurisdiction or
18 elect to have the case assigned to a United States district judge.

19 Accordingly,

20 **IT IS ORDERED** that Plaintiff shall file her written election to either
21 consent to magistrate-judge jurisdiction or elect to proceed before a United States district
22 judge on or before **Thursday, August 7, 2008**.

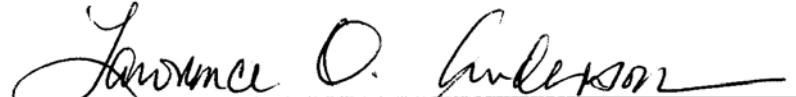
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24 _____
25 ¹The consent/election form was or will be electronically provided to Plaintiff’s
26 counsel by the Clerk. One may also find the consent/election form on the District’s web site,
27 click on “Local Rules” at the top of the page, then click on “Forms” on the left side of the
page and then click on and print the appropriate form. Consent/election forms are not to be
e-filed. Consent/election forms are to be filed in paper form with the Clerk’s Office. ECF
Policies and Procedure Manual, II, ¶ M at p.19.

1 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant shall file its written election
2 to either consent to magistrate-judge jurisdiction or elect to have this case assigned to a
3 United States district judge within 20 days of its appearance herein or as otherwise directed
4 by the Court.

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel and any party, if unrepresented,
6 shall hereinafter comply with the Rules of Practice for the United States District Court for
7 the District of Arizona. The District's Rules of Practice may be found on the District Court's
8 internet web page at www.azd.uscourts.gov/.

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel and any party, if unrepresented,
10 shall use the above caption, number and initials until further order of the Court.

11 DATED this 18th day of July, 2008.

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13 Lawrence O. Anderson
14 United States Magistrate Judge

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